

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|             |                           |   |           |
|-------------|---------------------------|---|-----------|
| Applicant:  | Stephens et al.           | ) |           |
|             |                           | ) |           |
| Serial No.: |                           | ) | Examiner: |
|             |                           | ) |           |
| Filed:      |                           | ) | Art Unit: |
|             |                           | ) |           |
| For:        | Portable Cleaning Machine | ) |           |
|             |                           | ) |           |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Pursuant to 37 CFR ' 1.97 encouraging the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants hereby submit the following in compliance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 CFR ' 1.56.

Information or art known to the Applicants and having an extent of relevance to the present application has been listed on Form PTO-1449 attached hereto. The Applicants have employed Form PTO-1449 for the purposes of convenience of the Office and the Examiner.

No representation is made that the information is pertinent to the claimed subject matter, that the information is non-cumulative, or that the information represents the only or the best information. The Applicants do not admit that any of the information they have provided is necessarily prior to their invention but rather that it is information of which they are aware and that they believe should be provided to the Office in fulfillment of their duty of disclosure. Any question that may arise regarding priority of a specific reference shall be resolved during prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,  
 The Hoover Company



Brett A. Schenck  
 Registration No. 35,347

THE HOOVER COMPANY  
 Patent Department  
 101 East Maple Street  
 North Canton, OH 44720  
 Phone: (330) 499-9200, Ext. 2515

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number (Optional)

2681

Application Number

Applicant(s)

Stephens et al.

Filing Date

Group Art Unit

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE       | NAME               | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|-----|-----------------|------------|--------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|                      |     | 2,876,481       | 03/10/1959 | D.C. Gerber et al. | 15    | 331      | 03/09/1955                    |
|                      |     | 4,955,106       | 09/11/1990 | Stein et al.       | 15    | 335      | 01/17/1990                    |
|                      |     | 5,504,970       | 04/09/1996 | Neshat et al.      | 15    | 334      | 06/24/1994                    |
|                      |     | 5,787,546       | 08/04/1998 | Bass et al.        | 15    | 344      | 12/02/1996                    |
|                      |     | 6,497,001       | 12/24/2002 | Di Nunzio et al.   | 15    | 323      | 01/12/2001                    |
|                      |     |                 |            |                    |       |          |                               |
|                      |     |                 |            |                    |       |          |                               |
|                      |     |                 |            |                    |       |          |                               |
|                      |     |                 |            |                    |       |          |                               |
|                      |     |                 |            |                    |       |          |                               |
|                      |     |                 |            |                    |       |          |                               |
|                      |     |                 |            |                    |       |          |                               |
|                      |     |                 |            |                    |       |          |                               |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | Translation |    |
|--|-----|-----------------|------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|  |     |                 |      |         |       |          | YES         | NO |
|  |     |                 |      |         |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |      |         |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |      |         |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |      |         |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |      |         |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |      |         |       |          |             |    |

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.